

Primarily Teaching Research Suggestions National Archives – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

The National Archives – Pacific Region in Laguna Niguel, CA has extensive holdings of Federal government records from Arizona, southern California and Clark County, Nevada. These records were created by dozens of Federal agencies, including the District Courts, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Navy, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service, to name a few. Constituting about 35,000 linear feet, the records include a wealth of information about the activities of the Federal government and its interaction with citizens.

The subjects listed below are a very few of the many topics one can research at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel. If you are interested in other topics or would like to discuss any of those already on the list, please call us at (949) 360-2641 extension 0 and ask to speak with an archivist.

Spanish and Mexican Legacy: Land Grants in Arizona

When Mexico ceded lands to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, provisions of that treaty mandated that the United States uphold the rights of landowners in the ceded territories. This required the U.S. Government to measure and to validate these private land claims while combating a stream of new settlers squatting on lands they did not own. The differences in the land distribution systems used by Mexico and the United States starkly illustrate the different societies that the two countries envisioned for their futures.

Native American Autonomy: Mission Indian Federation

In 1919, California Indians from over 30 different reservations met at the Riverside, CA home of Jonathan Tibbet, a white realtor and Indian rights activist to form the Mission Indian Federation (MIF). The purpose of the organization was, "...to secure by legislation or otherwise all the rights and benefits belonging to each Indian, both singly, and collectively - to protect them against unjust laws-rules-regulations." Through much of the 20th century, the MIF agitated for Indian self-rule on southern California reservations.



Led by Tibbet and Adam Castillo, who presided as the President of the organization for much of its existence, the Federation challenged the authority and competency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) throughout the 1920s, publicly claiming that the U.S. government did, "...nothing for the advancement or benefit of California Indians" and that the BIA had robbed, defrauded, and denied the Indians of their land, privileges, and rights. In 1921 the Federal government responded to these accusations by indicting 57 Federation members on charges of conspiring to defraud the Federal government, interfering with the administration of the BIA, and alienating Indians from the Federal government.

The Homefront: Southern California during the Second World War

During World War II, the U.S. Government created an Office of Civilian Defense to ensure the safety of the United States and its citizens, similar to today's Department of Homeland Security. The bulletins issued by the Los Angeles Civil Defense Council detail southern California communities' participation in the war effort, ranging from air raid drills to food rationing.

The Chinese Exclusion Acts

In 1892, The United States Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, barring Chinese laborers from entering the country and forcing Chinese immigrants already in the United States to register or face deportation. The Federal government maintained tens of thousands of file on Chinese in America, document their lives in minute detail.



Mexican Revolutionaries: Flores Magon and his Followers in the United States

At the beginning of the 20th century, a group of revolutionaries from Mexico living in the United States, including the anarchist Ricardo Flores Magon, recruited fighters to join the movement against the Diaz government in Mexico. This violated the neutrality agreement between the United States and Mexico which made it illegal to launch attacking from a neutral country. There are several court cases involving Ricardo Flores Magon, his brother Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera, Anselmo Figueroa, Ceryl Rhys Pryce and Antonio Villarreal.

Assimilating Native Americans: Bureau of Indian Affairs Field Matrons

The policies of the Office of Indian Affairs at the turn of the Twentieth century promoted the assimilation of native peoples into American society at large. One element of this policy was the work of the field matron. Her responsibility was to work with Indian women and girls to develop domestic skills either in their own homes, as in the case of older or married women, or

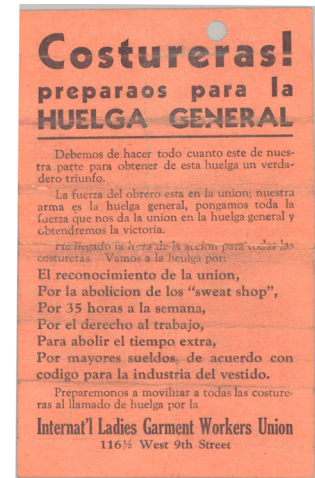
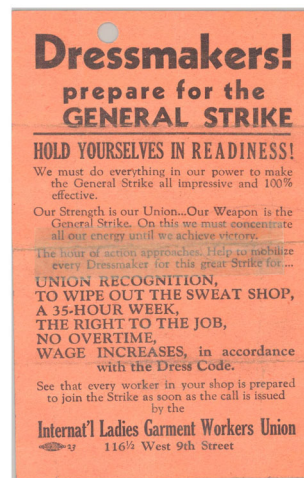
by seeking positions for young Indian girls in the homes of Anglo families. The Office of Indian Affairs assigned field matrons to each Indian agency and to Indian schools. These files contain narrative and statistical reports, as well as correspondence with employers and girls.

The Mann Act

In 1910, the United States Congress passed the Mann Act, which forbade the transportation of women from one state to another for immoral purposes. Initially the act was intended to address prostitution and immorality. In 1917, the provisions of the law were expanded to include non-commercial sex. These cases include some testimony from women who were involved in prostitution and of particular interest is a case involving Charlie Chaplin.

The Labor Movement in Southern California during the Depression

In the early 1930s southern California experience a wave of strikes. In 1933 and 1934, the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), which was accused of having ties with the Communist Party, organized a large strike among the needle trade workers of Los Angeles. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was called in to bring the workers and factory owners together for mediation. Even as the needle workers struck, farm workers also sought better pay and working conditions. Senator Robert F. Wagner ordered an investigation of the treatment of farm workers in the Imperial Valley. The National Labor Relations Board office in Los Angeles participated in this investigation and produced a report, which detailed the strife, analyzed its causes, and made recommendations to provide both workers and farmers with a more stable future.



Promoting Indian Culture through Art: The Indian Arts and Crafts Board

Beginning in the mid-1930s, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, John Collier, began to reverse the Federal government's policy of assimilating Indians into mainstream society in favor of tradition and sovereignty. One of the programs implemented under this policy was the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, which sought to elevate the quality and promote Indian traditional arts such as pottery, rugs, baskets and jewelry making. Individual agencies also began to assist and track Indian artists through their extension programs.

The Indian New Deal: The Wheeler-Howard Act

Beginning in the mid-1930s, Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier began to reverse the Federal government's policy of assimilating Indians into mainstream society in favor of tradition and sovereignty. With passage of the Indian Reorganization Act (also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act) in 1934, Collier implemented a policy of limited sovereignty for recognized Indian tribes. The Act allowed tribes who established their own constitution and law-making process and to allow tribal management of tribal assets (mainly land). Records show the complicated

development of constitutions, arguments for and against reorganization, and resolutions passed by newly formed governments.

Tourism in the Grand Canyon

Since trains reached the Grand Canyon in 1901, it has been a destination for urban America to experience the West. Its inaccessibility and vastness has consistently added stories to the mythology of the American West. The records of the Grand Canyon National Park document the rise of businesses such as the Fred Harvey Company and the Kolb Brother's Studio who catered to travelers on holiday; they document the development of the river runner, part businessperson, part adventurer, all character and they show the Federal government's continued role as both steward and promoter of America's public lands.

Jackson Barnett: "The World's Richest Indian"

In 1912, Jackson Barnett, a Creek Indian, became extremely wealthy when oil was discovered on his allotment. An Oklahoma court ruled that Barnett was incompetent and appointed a custodian to oversee his affairs. This led to years of legal battles as Barnett and his wife Anna, the Federal government as guardian, and the Oklahoma court appointed custodian fought over control of the money.



The Hualapai Tribe v. The Santa Fe Railroad

In 1941, suit was brought before the United States District Court in Arizona by the United States in its own right and as guardian of the Hualapais to stop the Santa Fe Railroad from interfering with the possession and occupancy of land claimed by the Hualapai. The case represents a significant action by Native Americans to regain control of traditional tribal lands.

Desegregation in California, Arizona and Nevada

Even as some civil rights groups attacked the deeply segregated South, other groups sought to end segregation -- of both African Americans and Hispanics -- in the West. The records of the District Courts for southern California, Arizona and Clark County, Nevada include a number of cases that document challenge to racial segregation in public institutions. The most famous of these is *Mendez v. Westminster*, which forced the desegregation Anglo and Hispanics in California schools. Other significant cases include *Lopez v. Seccume*, which sought an end to segregation in public parks in San Bernardino; *Gonzalez v. Sheely*, which was filed to end segregation in Arizona schools and the 1968 case *Kelly v. Mason* that sought the end to de facto segregation of schools in Las Vegas.

Anti-Communism in America: Prosecuting Communists in Los Angeles

The Smith Act, passed by Congress in 1940, made it a crime to advocate the overthrow of the Federal government. This was the first law that mandated criminal convictions not merely of people who acted to overthrow the Government, but also of people who advocated its overthrow.

In 1948 the Grand Jury subpoenaed Dorothy Healey and others to answer questions about the Communist Party in Los Angeles. Because they refused to answer questions before the Grand Jury they were tried for contempt of court. Federal officials later prosecuted William Schneidermann and the other leaders of California's Communist Party under the Smith Act. The voluminous records of these cases include transcripts of the proceedings and a significant number of publications of the Communist party seized by Government.

The Zoot Suit Riots

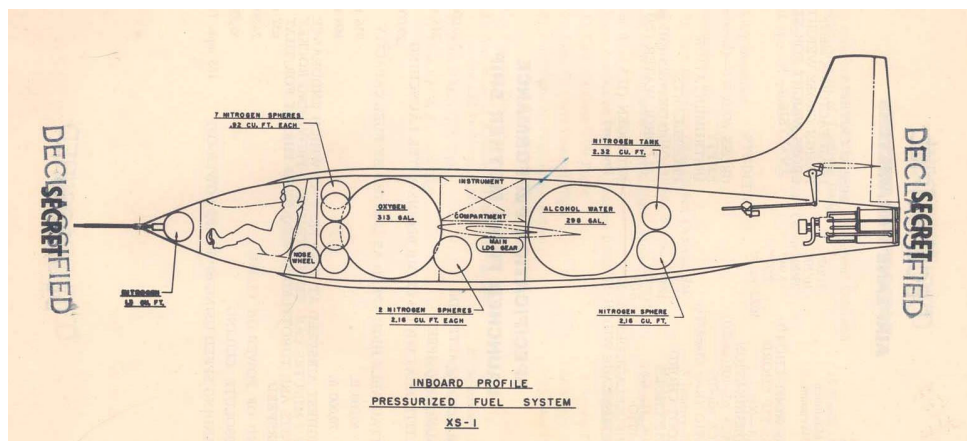
In 1943, sailors and Mexican-Americans clashed in a series of confrontations popularly known as the Zoot Suit Riots. Though the difficulties originated between naval personnel and gangs referred to as "zoot suiters," the violence spread to include people throughout the Los Angeles Mexican-American community. These conflicts demonstrate much of the underlying tension within American society during the 1940s. The Navy's reports and other records on the conflict show the official response, which included prohibiting sailors from entering certain portions of Los Angeles.

Treason: *United States v. Tomoya Kawakita*

Tomoya Kawakita was an American-born man of Japanese descent who traveled to Japan prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He was recruited as a translator working in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, where he was involved in brutalities against American and British prisoners. Following the war, Kawakita returned home and was tried for treason for cooperating with Japanese authorities in beatings of Allied prisoners.

The Aircraft Industry in Southern California

Southern California became the center for the aircraft, and later the aerospace industry during and following World War II. Companies such as Hughes Aircraft, Douglass Aircraft and the Glenn L. Martin Company grew at an astounding rate with military contracts and increased commercial demand for air travel. The face of the southern California community changed as the industry grew and workers moved west to build airplanes.



Alien Enemies during Wartime

In 1798, under the specter of war with France, Congress passed the first legislation in the nation's history directed at citizens of countries at war with the United States who were living on American soil. During the First World War, Congress passed laws requiring registration of alien enemies and during World War II, Japanese, German and Italian citizens identified as possible threats to the United States were arrested and interned in a series of camps operated by the Department of Justice. The Regional Archives' holdings include registrations from World War I for alien enemies in Phoenix, Arizona and case files for alien enemies arrested in southern California during World War II.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
WASHINGTON, D. C.					
Immigration and Naturalization Service					
Record from	Address San Pedro, California				
(On the above line please state whether Police Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Jail)					
Date of arrest 5/2/42					
Charge Alien enemy					
Disposition of case					
Residence 217-B Albicore, Terminal Island					
Place of birth Shizuoka-ken, Japan					
Nationality Japane					
Criminal specialty					
Age 52 Date of birth 10/24/1889					
Height 5' 3 1/2" Comp. yel Hair black					
Weight 128# Eyes brown Build stocky					
Scars and marks 3 on ear scar left thumb; cut scar palm left hand; ring finger left hand stiff.					
ACCOMPLICES					
NAME	NUMBER	NAME	NUMBER	NAME	NUMBER
FBI NUMBER					
CRIMINAL HISTORY					
NAME	NUMBER	CITY OR INSTITUTION	DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION OR SENTENCE
(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)					
7-2285					

To Be American: Japanese Removal, Expatriation and Repatriation

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, people of Japanese ancestry found themselves caught in the midst of a national panic. Many who were residents of the western coastal states were removed to War Relocation Authority camps where they remained for much of the war. In the camps, some resisted the draft, some demanded to be sent back to Japan and others maintained that they were loyal Americans whose rights had been diminished.

Education, Assimilation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The goal of Indian education from the 1880s through the 1920s was to assimilate Indian people into "white" American society by placing them in schools where traditional ways could be replaced by those sanctioned by the government. Federal Indian policy supported the removal of children from their families to government supervised boarding schools. In this way, the policy makers believed, young people would be immersed in the values and practical knowledge of the dominant American society while also being kept away from any influences imparted by their traditionally-minded relatives.

School Desegregation: *Mendez v. Westminster*

In 1946, a group of Mexican-American families in Orange County, CA decided to contest the exclusion of their children from a whites-only school in Westminster. Together with other affected families, Gonzalo Mendez and his wife sued the Westminster Unified School District in Federal court in Los Angeles. The families won the court-ordered integration of Orange County schools eight years before the more famous Brown vs. Board of Education case. At the time of the Mendez case, Earl Warren, who later served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the Brown case, was Governor of California. Organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League

and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) closely followed the Mendez case.

Indian Relocation: The Employment Assistance Program

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented a policy of relocation. The program encouraged Native Americans to leave their rural reservations and move to cities, where they could engage in industry and learn to become a part of an increasingly urbanized America and eventually live the "American dream."



Of Pink Slips and Red Scares: The Hollywood Ten

In 1947, a group of Hollywood writers, directors and producers were summoned to Washington, D.C. to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Ring Lardner, Jr., Alvert Maltz, Dalton Trumbo, Samuel Ornitz, John Howard Lawson, Herbert Biberman, Robert Adrian Scott, Lester Cole, Alvah Bessie and Edward Dmytryk endured several days of testimony in which they all refused to answer the question, "Are you now, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" After they returned to California, those of the Hollywood Ten who were under contract with the studios faced termination and a blacklist. In a series of court cases members of the Hollywood Ten accused the studios of breach of contract.

The New Deal: Regulating Citrus Markets

During the Great Depression, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sought to stabilize the price of citrus fruits in southern California and Arizona by limiting the amount of fruit growers and shippers put on the market. The system greatly favored the large grower cooperatives because they were permitted to ship more fruit than independent growers. Many growers felt that the system was unfair and refused to comply. Following the economic recovery that came with World War II, the USDA itself came under attack for allowing a citrus monopoly to develop and flourish.

Petroleum Politics: the Petroleum Administration for War and the City of Los Angeles

During World War II the Petroleum Administration for War (PAW) was charged with the critical job of managing the nation's oil supplies. The Signal Hill district of Los Angeles included undeveloped oil fields that the Federal government wanted to tap as soon as possible to support the war effort. The City of Los Angeles resisted, wanting to control the placement of oil wells within the city. The resulting conflict highlights the different goals of the Federal government, local governments and interest groups.

Navajo Stock Reduction

In 1933, the Federal government enacted a program to reduce sheep herds owned by the Navajo in Arizona and New Mexico. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) stated intent was to restrict overgrazing on the arid lands of the reservation. However, sheep's central role in the Navajo culture and economy meant that this program, which resulted in the slaughter of approximately 250,000 sheep, had a devastating impact upon the Navajo. In the end, this experience led the Navajo to reject other policies put forth by the BIA, such as the Indian Reorganization Act.

